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25X1

SUBJECT: Comments Concerning the [redacted] Dry Silver Proposed Development and Implementation Plan

The small amount of heat required for sheet or chip processing does not call for any special venting, existing air conditioning will handle OK.

Serious question as to use of "combination printer processor." Tying a variable gamma processor into a variable exposure printing system is not a recommended approach, especially when photo sensitive material of various sensitivities are used, i.e., films, paper, diazo's, etc.

J. Page 10, Paragraph F:

..."establish an evaluation program to monitor material and equipment" ...brings up serious question of function within TSSG, especially those of R&D management vs. planning management. This needs careful consideration as to ramifications.

Reference to "operational requirements" is basically a very important and fundamental step that has never really been taken. It would appear that planning and programming could never be effectively managed without the very basic items of requirements and needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. DED concurs with PPS. First things should come first--a high priority should be placed on determining the performance characteristics of dry-silver materials and processing techniques and equipment. It is believed that NPIC has the expertise to accomplish these goals in-house. ESD has personnel that are capable as well as technically cognizant. Additionally, the consultation services of outstanding experts throughout the U.S. are available.

If priorities and workloads do not permit utilization of Center personnel, the services of organizations such as NBS are available as back-up.

2. Formation of a task team is not recommended by DED. What is needed at this time is a coordinated plan to re-emphasize and place the proper responsibilities within NPIC. The various functional responsibilities already exist within the organizational elements of the Center. Only more effective coordination and clarification of roles is needed.

3. While cost and operational effectiveness analysis are very strong management tools when properly applied, it is not recommended that such an endeavor be initiated at this time! It would be a complete and total anachronism! Dry-silver material is going into pilot plant

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scale-up at the same time basic R&D is underway to produce more advanced material which will be more in keeping with the development goals. Prototype processing equipment is still in the development stage. To study the costs and operational effectiveness analysis of any R&D program in this stage, could not only be harmful to the development in its critical stages but would also be a waste of the time of good management personnel. It is also doubtful that dry-silver or any new or unconventional photo process will change wet silver utilization overnight. The change needs to be a gradual and smooth but continual transition from one method to another.

4. DED concurs with the urgency to insure the contractual continuity of the dry-silver material program. Possible loss of [redacted] key 25X1
personnel, loss of precious development time on the R&D of the program and work stoppages have been experienced in the past due to contractual uncertainties. The dry-silver program is particularly vulnerable at this critical stage of "polishing-up" of the development. Most of the technical uncertainties have been overcome. Much time, money and effort has been expended to date by the Center. It would be a shame to see it fall short of the finish line when the Center has sponsored and carried it through the most basic, high risk, stages to one that now requires only refinement!

5. It is recommended that the dry-silver development be permitted to continue, unencumbered, through the natural course of research, development, test, evaluation, operational evaluation, and operational use.

[redacted] 25X1
R&D Branch II

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Carole

Add to NPIC/TSSG/DED-
1581-69 dated 11 April 69.

cb

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